

Appl. No. 10/002,101  
Amendment dated June 13, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2003

**Official**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is requested.

Applicant's representative would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions provided in the Office Action of March 26, 2003. In response to these suggestions, the following amendments have been made:

In claim 6, the word "a" in the phrase "wherein the borate is a sodium tetraborate decahydrate" (emphasis added) has been deleted.

In claim 20, lines 3 and 4, the term "such" has been replace with the word "so".

Claim 17 and its dependent claims were objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Furthermore, it was pointed out that claims 17-19, which were directed to methods for preparing the preservative of claim 1, were object to for not reciting a step wherein the carbonate source, is added. Claim 17 has now been rewritten in independent form and has been further amended to specify that at least one of the source of metal and ammonium salt is added in the form of a carbonate or bicarbonate thereby providing a source of carbonate.

In addition to the above-identified amendments, the following claim amendments have been made for grammatical clarity:

- The word "is" has been inserted in the third line of step (c) of claims 1 and 15 after the word "metal".
- The word "and" has been added at the end of step (b) of claim 17.
- The suffix "ing" has been added to the words "add" and "mix" (i.e. "adding" and "mixing") in steps (a), (b) and (c) of claim 17.

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Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-16 and 20-24 have been allowed. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the that all claims are now in proper and allowable form and directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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